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the contrast between the much despised, impoverished Irish of the foreign "lot" in 1830, and their highly prosperous descendants of the present time.

R.J. P.

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**A Son of the Hidalgos.** By Ricardo León, translated by Catalina Paez. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday, Page & Co. Pp. xvi+296.

Some classics of old Spain have become so familiar to Americans that they form part of our own literature, but modern Spanish fiction is almost unknown. This is partly due to the change which has come over Spain in the generation just now passing. Spain entered a new era in her history after the war of '98; a period characterized by pessimism on the one hand, and frantic seeking of things modern on the other. Many Spaniards purposely tried to forget their past and its splendid heritage and to start as though nothing before counted for aught. The foolishness of this tendency, as well as the futility of attempting to live entirely in the past, is the theme of this work. The author has pictured in the soul of his hero this national struggle and makes us understand what it has meant to Spain.

The work is not merely a piece of fiction—it is an allegory, revealing the souls of people; its publication brought fame overnight to its writer. Mrs. McManus has translated it in a way possible only by one to whom both languages are natural, and who possesses independent literary ability.

The story is divided into five episodes, called "Journeys," each dealing with a stage in the progress of the hero, and so of the Spanish people. There is, of course, a love story running through it, but it is no ordinary love story. But one must read the book to appreciate its many charms, and to understand the service Mrs. McManus has rendered in giving it to us in English form.

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**The Dominican Lay Brother.** By Very Rev. V. F. O'Daniel, O. P., S. T. M. New York: The Bureau of the Holy Name. Pp. 174.

Father O'Daniel's purpose in writing this little book is to answer the question he asks in his concluding chapter, "Why